

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE**

ROBERT KESSLER,

Plaintiff,

-vs-

APNA INVESTMENTS GROUP L.L.C.,
and PLUTUS ON AURORA, INC.,
individually.

Defendants.

Cause No. 2:21-cv-83

COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

COMES NOW, Plaintiff, ROBERT KESSLER (hereinafter the “Plaintiff”), through undersigned counsel, hereby files this Complaint and sues APNA INVESTMENTS GROUP L.L.C, a Washington Limited Liability Company, and PLUTUS ON AURORA, INC., a Washington Corporation, (hereinafter, collectively the “Defendants”), for injunctive relief, attorney’s fees and costs (including, but not limited to, court costs and expert fees), pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12181, et. seq., commonly referred to as the “AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT” or “ADA” and alleges:

JURISDICTION AND PARTIES

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3 1. This is an action for declaratory and injunctive relief pursuant to Title III of the
4 Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12181, et. seq., (hereinafter referred to as the
5 “ADA”). This Court is vested with jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1331 and §1343.
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7 2. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391 in that all events
8 and procedures giving rise to this Complaint occurred in this judicial district.

9 3. At the time of Plaintiff’s personal visit to Defendants’ public accommodation, prior
10 to instituting he instant action, Robert Kessler (hereinafter referred to as “Kessler”), was a resident
11 of the State of Washington, and suffered from what constitutes a “qualified disability” under the
12 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and used a wheelchair for mobility due to this disability.
13 Plaintiff has an amputated leg. He is required to traverse with a wheelchair and is substantially
14 limited to performing one or more major life activities including, but not limited to walking,
15 standing and maneuvering.
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17 4. The Plaintiff personally visited, on or about October 20, 2020 Defendants’ premises
18 open to the public, but was denied full and equal access to, and full and equal enjoyment of the
19 facilities, services, goods, privileges and accommodations offered to others without disabilities;
20 because of his disability requirements. Plaintiff lives in King County, Washington and travels in
21 the surrounding areas near Defendants’ facilities on a regular basis for shopping, dining and
22 entertainment.
23

24 5. Upon information and belief, APNA INVESTMENTS GROUP L.L.C., a
25 Washington Limited Liability Company or Corporation, is the lessor and/or owner operator of the
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1 real property and/or premises that are the subject of this lawsuit, commonly referred to Pacific
2 Chevron, in Tukwila, Washington.

3 6. Upon information and belief, PLUTUS ON AURORA, INC a Washington
4 Corporation located at 14415 Tukwila International Blvd, Tukwila, Washington is the lessee,
5 operator and/or owner of the real property (the “Subject Facility”). Each Defendant own, leases,
6 leases to, or operates a place of public accommodation as defined by the ADA and the regulations
7 implementing the ADA, 28 CFR §36.201(a) and §36.104.
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10 **COUNT I – VIOLATIONS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

11 7. On or about July 26, 1990, Congress enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act
12 (“ADA”), 42 U.S.C. §12101, et. seq. Commercial enterprises were provided one and a half years
13 from enactment of the statute to implement all its requirements. The effective date of the Title III
14 of the ADA was January 26, 1992. 42 U.S.C. §12181; 20 C.F.R. §36.508(a).
15

16 8. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12181(7) and 28 C.F.R. §36.104, the Subject Facility and
17 real property in this case is a place of public accommodation under the ADA in that they are
18 establishments which provide goods and services to the public.
19

20 9. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12181(7) and 28 C.F.R. §36.104, the building and/or
21 premises which is the subject of this action is a public accommodation covered by the ADA and
22 which must be in compliance therewith as of the date of the Plaintiff’s visit.

23 10. The Plaintiff is informed and believes, and therefore alleges, that the Subject
24 Facility has begun operations and/or undergone remodeling, repairs and/or alterations since
25 January 26, 1990 and more specifically on or after March 15, 2012 as it pertains to 28 C.F.R. §
26 36.406.
27

1 11. Defendants have discriminated under the ADA, and continue to discriminate,
2 against the Plaintiff, and others who are similarly situated, by denying full and equal access to, and
3 full and equal enjoyment of, goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or
4 accommodations at Defendants' Subject Facilities in derogation of 42 U.S.C. §12101, *et. seq.*, and
5 as prohibited by 42 U.S.C. §12182 *et. seq.*, and by failing to remove architectural barriers
6 pertaining to the Plaintiff's disability pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12182(b)(2)(a)(iv), where such
7 removal is readily achievable.
8

9 12. The Plaintiff has been unable to, and continues to be unable to, enjoy full and equal
10 safe access to, and the benefits of, all accommodations and services offered at Defendants' Subject
11 Facilities. Prior to the filing of this lawsuit, the Plaintiff visited the subject properties and was
12 denied full and safe access to all the benefits, accommodations and services of the Defendants.
13 Prior to the filing of this lawsuit, Kessler, personally visited Pacific Chevron, 14415 Tukwila
14 International Blvd, Tukwila, Washington, Washington, with the intention of accessing
15 Defendants' facilities, but was denied full and safe access to the facilities due to the inactions of
16 removing applicable barriers. Plaintiff intends to return to the Defendant's premises and public
17 accommodate upon the premises being made ADA compliant for access, but is currently deterred
18 from returning due to these barriers. As such, Plaintiff is likely to be subjected to reencountering
19 continuing discrimination at the premises unless it is made readily accessible to and usable by
20 individuals with disabilities to the extent required under the ADA, including the removal of the
21 architectural barrier which remain at the premises.
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24 13. Pursuant to the mandates of 42 U.S.C. §12134(a), on July 26, 1991, the Department
25 of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, promulgated Federal Regulations to implement the
26 requirements of the ADA, known as the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines
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(hereinafter “ADAAG”), 28 C.F.R. Part 36. Defendants facilities do not comply with these Guidelines.

14. The Defendants’ premises are in violation of 42 U.S.C. §12182 *et. seq.*, the ADA and 28 C.F.R. §36.302 *et. seq.*, and has and is discriminating against the Plaintiff. The Plaintiff was deterred from encountering every non-compliant barrier at the premises due to the nature of encountering some barriers that denied the Plaintiff’s full and equal enjoyment of the facility. Therefore, the Plaintiff encountered the following specific barriers to access that include but are not limited to the following, but also retains standing to allege non-compliance for any barrier not encountered by the Plaintiff at the premises related to the Plaintiff’s specific disability requirements under *Doran v. 7-Eleven, Inc.*, 524 F.3d 1034, 1047 (9th Cir. 2008):

VIOLATIONS

15(a). Failure to provide ADA compliant parking stall striping and markings, in violation of 2010 ADAS Section 502.3.3 and/or 1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The premises failed to have compliant parking stall striping and markings by having dilapidated and in need of repairs which Plaintiff requires as Plaintiff utilizes a wheelchair due to the Plaintiff’s disability and such handicapped accessible parking stalls are necessary. Said barrier is covered by the A.D.A. guidelines and is in nonconformity with the requirements for such architecture.

15(b). Failure to provide ADA compliant parking stall width at the subject property in violation of 2010 ADAS Section 502.2 and/or 1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The premises failed to provide compliant parking stall widths for disabled parking which Plaintiff requires as Plaintiff utilizes a wheelchair due to the Plaintiff’s disability and such handicapped accessible parking stalls are necessary. Said barrier is covered by the A.D.A. guidelines and is in nonconformity with the requirements for such architecture.

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2 15(c). Failure to provide ADA compliant cross slope grading at the subject property in
3 violation of 2010 ADAS Section 502.4 and/or 1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The
4 premises failed to have compliant wheelchair accessible cross slope grading as slopes exceed 2%
5 as Plaintiff utilizes a wheelchair for mobility. Said barrier is covered by the A.D.A. guidelines
6 and is in nonconformity with the requirements for such architecture.
7

8 15(d). Failure to provide ADA compliant parking stall signage, in violation 2010 ADAS
9 Section 502.6, and/or 1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The premises failed to have
10 compliant parking stall signage as Plaintiff utilizes a wheelchair due to the Plaintiff's disability
11 and such handicapped accessible parking stalls are necessary. Said barrier is covered by the A.D.A.
12 guidelines and is in nonconformity with the requirements for such architecture.
13

14 15(e). Failure to provide ADA compliant parking access aisles at the subject property in
15 violation of 2010 ADAS Section 502.3.1 and/or 1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The
16 premises failed to provide any compliant parking access aisles measuring a minimum of 5 feet
17 wide which Plaintiff requires as Plaintiff utilizes a wheelchair due to the Plaintiff's disability and
18 such handicapped accessible parking stalls are necessary. Said barrier is covered by the A.D.A.
19 guidelines and is in nonconformity with the requirements for such architecture.
20

21 15(f). Failure to provide ADA compliant parking access aisle cross slope and running slope
22 at the subject property in violation of 2010 ADAS Section 502.2 and/or 1991 ADA Standards for
23 Accessible Design. The premises contains non-compliant parking access aisles with excessive
24 cross and running slopes which Plaintiff requires as Plaintiff utilizes a wheelchair due to the
25 Plaintiff's disability and such handicapped accessible parking stalls are necessary. Said barrier is
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1 covered by the A.D.A. guidelines and is in nonconformity with the requirements for such
2 architecture.

3 15(g). Failure to provide ADA compliant accessible route from accessible parking spaces
4 to the accessible building entrance in violation of 2010 ADAS Section 206.2.1 and/or 1991 ADA
5 Standards for Accessible Design. The premises failed to have a compliant accessible route from
6 accessible parking spaces to the accessible building Plaintiff requires as Plaintiff utilizes a
7 wheelchair due to the Plaintiff's disability and such architecture is necessary. Said barrier is
8 covered by the A.D.A. guidelines and is in nonconformity with the requirements for such
9 architecture.
10

11 15(h). Failure to provide ADA compliant accessible route width clearance in violation of
12 20013 WSBS Section 1101.2.2. The premises failed to have a compliant accessible route width
13 from accessible parking spaces to the accessible building Plaintiff requires as Plaintiff utilizes a
14 wheelchair due to the Plaintiff's disability and such architecture is necessary. Said barrier is
15 covered by the A.D.A. guidelines and Washington guidelines and is in nonconformity with the
16 requirements for such architecture.
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18 15(i). Failure to provide ADA compliant transaction counters height at the subject property
19 in violation of 2010 ADAS Section 904.4.1 and 904.4.2 and/or 1991 ADA Standards for
20 Accessible Design. The premises failed to have a compliant transaction counters with compliant
21 height restrictions for wheelchair access as Plaintiff utilizes a wheelchair for mobility. Said barrier
22 is covered by the A.D.A. guidelines and is in nonconformity with the requirements for such
23 architecture.
24

25 15(j). Failure to provide ADA compliant accessible merchandise reach range, throughout
26 the subject facility, in violation of 2010 ADAS Section 308.1 and/or 1991 ADA Standards for
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1 Accessible Design. The premises failed to have compliant accessible merchandise reach ranges
2 for wheelchair access as Plaintiff utilizes a wheelchair due to the Plaintiff's disability and such
3 handicapped accessible parking stalls are necessary. Said barrier is covered by the A.D.A.
4 guidelines and is in nonconformity with the requirements for such architecture.
5

6 15(k). Failure to provide ADA compliant point of sale, merchandise, and display reach
7 range, throughout the subject facility, in violation of 2010 ADAS Section 308.1 and/or 1991 ADA
8 Standards for Accessible Design. The premises failed to have compliant point of sale,
9 merchandise, and display reach ranges for wheelchair access as Plaintiff utilizes a wheelchair due
10 to the Plaintiff's disability and such handicapped accessible parking stalls are necessary. Said
11 barrier is covered by the A.D.A. guidelines and is in nonconformity with the requirements for such
12 architecture.
13

14 15(l). Failure to provide access to and use of ADA compliant restroom facilities,
15 including, but not limited to, compliant restroom door, signage, hardware, the required restroom
16 maneuverability clear floor space, toilet and lavatory clear floor spaces, entry door clear floor
17 space, accessible grab bars, accessible dispenser heights, and mirror height, in violation of 2010
18 ADAS Section 213.2 and/or 1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The premises
19 contained multiple non-compliant features for wheelchair access as Plaintiff utilizes a wheelchair
20 for mobility. Said barrier is covered by the A.D.A. guidelines and is in nonconformity with the
21 requirements for such architecture.
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23 16. The above-referenced barriers will likely cause a repeated real injury in fact in a
24 similar way if not remedied when the Plaintiff frequents this property again as described
25 previously. Each of these barriers interfered with the Plaintiff's full and equal enjoyment of the
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1 facility and deterred Plaintiff from encountering all applicable barriers at the premises by failing
2 to allow Plaintiff the same access due to the Plaintiff's disability as those enjoy without disabilities.

3 17. Upon information and belief, there are other current non-compliant barrier access
4 violations of the ADA at Defendants' premises, which may only be discovered and properly
5 identified once a full inspection of the premises is completed and identified due to Plaintiff being
6 deterred from discovering each and every barrier as a result of encountering the above-listed
7 violations.
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9 18. As of the date of the filing of this suit, the readily achievable barriers and other
10 violations of the ADA still exist and have not been remedied or altered in such a way as to
11 effectuate compliance with the provisions of the ADA. The barriers to access at the premises, as
12 described above, have severely diminished Plaintiff's ability to avail Plaintiff of the goods and
13 services offered at the Subject Facilities, and compromise Plaintiff's safety.
14

15 19. Pursuant to the ADA, 42 U.S.C. §12101 *et. seq.*, and 28 C.F.R. §36.304, the
16 Defendants were required to make the Subject Facility, a place of public accommodation,
17 accessible to persons with disabilities since January 28, 1992. To date, the Defendants have failed
18 to comply with this mandate.
19

20 20. The Plaintiff has been obligated to retain the undersigned counsel for the filing and
21 prosecution of this action. The Plaintiff is entitled to have his reasonable attorney's fees, costs and
22 expenses paid by the Defendants, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12205.

23 21. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12188, this Court is vested with the authority to grant the
24 Plaintiff's injunctive relief; including an order to alter the subject facilities to make them readily
25 accessible to, and useable by, individuals with disabilities to the extent required by the ADA and
26 closing the subject facility until the requisite modifications are completed.
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COUNT II: WASHINGTON LAW AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

22. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all allegations in the paragraphs above.

23. Plaintiff is a qualified individual with a disability within the meaning of the Washington Law Against Discrimination.

24. Section 49.60.030(1) of the Revised Code of Washington provides in pertinent part: “The right to be free from discrimination because of . . . the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability . . . is recognized as a declared to be a civil right. This right shall include, but not be limited to . . . (b) the right to the full enjoyment of any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, or privileges of any place of public resort, accommodation, assemblage, or amusement . . .”

25. Defendants have violated and continue to violate §§ 49.60.010 *et seq.*, of the Revised Code of Washington by violating multiple accessibility requirements under the ADA.

26. Defendants’ actions constitute discrimination against persons with disabilities and violate the Washington Law Against Discrimination, Revised Code of Washington §§ 49.60.010 *et seq.*, in that persons with mobility disabilities have been and are denied full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, and services that Defendant provides to individuals who do not have disabilities.

27. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants’ discriminatory conduct as alleged in this Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief, the Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer difficulty, hardship, isolation, and segregation and is denied the full and equal enjoyment of services that the Washington Law Against Discrimination requires due to Defendant’s failure to remediate barriers.

30. Pursuant to RCW § 49.60.030(2), Plaintiff is entitled to declaratory and injunctive relief and to recover from Defendants, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in bringing this action.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff hereby demands judgment against the Defendants and the Court declare that

B. The Court enter an Order requiring the Defendants to alter their facilities and amenities to make them accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities to the full extent required by Title III of the ADA;

C. Any portions of the Defendant's premises identified as being non-compliant under the ADA guidelines be enjoined from being open to the public until such time that Defendants establish those areas are in full compliance with ADA requirements.

D. The Court enter an Order directing the Defendants to evaluate and neutralize their policies, practices and procedures toward persons with disabilities, for such

1 reasonable time so as to allow the Defendants to undertake and complete corrective
2 procedures to the Subject Facility;

3 E. The Court award reasonable attorney's fees, all costs (including, but not limited to
4 court costs and expert fees) and other expenses of suit, to the Plaintiff; and

5 F. The Court award such other and further relief as it deems necessary, just and proper.
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7
8 DATED this 22 January 2021

9 Respectfully submitted,

10
11 /s/ M. William Judnich

12 M. William Judnich

13 WSBA #56087

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